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MASSERA SAYS HE HAS NOT DECIDED TO RETIRE

FY090253Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Mar 78 FY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Mar--Navy Commander in Chief Emilio Eduardo Massera maintained that there are no important personalities in this process because the armed forces are not willing to tolerate any personalism. He said: All of us can be changed without the process being altered, since this is a process of institutions, not of men.

These remarks will be published in the Thursday, 9 March, edition of the magazine GENTE.

When asked about the announcement he made on 3 March at the ceremony honoring Brown, when he stated that it was the last time he would head the ceremony as navy commander--even though it was established that the three commanders in chief making up the junta would cease in their functions on 24 March 1979--Admiral Massera answered: The statute establishes 24 March 1979 as the deadline for remaining in the positions. That means that no one can stay longer than that. An earlier date is up to the personal decision of the commanders, who will evaluate their retirement according to what is more appropriate for the progress of the process and for vigor within their forces.

Regarding when he plans to retire, he stated: I have not made up my mind yet. It will depend on how quickly some institutional steps are firmed up, steps which are very important for the political life of the country, responsibility for which I cannot avoid.

What will you do when you retire? Will you completely give up the country's political life? Massera answered: I hope no citizen will give up the country's political life. In today's Argentina, no one has a right to be indifferent.

He was asked to make a frank and realistic evaluation of his personal contribution in these almost 2 years of government; he stated, however, that it is not I who has to judge that. I only hope to have faithfully reflected the thinking of the navy. That is my basic responsibility.

He was then asked who he had in mind when he said in Rio Grande: The fatherland is closer here. There are no thick rugs here to suffocate the pulse of the earth. Oblique intentions, ambiguous words, diplomatic subtleties or angry oratory as the expression of a hostility which disregards rights have no room here. He answered that, of course, he meant the Chilean president.

He added: A few hours earlier, the Argentine delegation was surprised to hear an inappropriate speech delivered by Pinochet. I happened to be the first who had to speak publicly after this unfortunate incident. That is why it was I who expressed the deep disappointment caused by this unusual attitude of the Chilean Government.

He was asked whether he was not in agreement with the way the Beagle issue was being handled and he replied: If I were not in agreement with the negotiations, I would not have approved them at the military junta. Besides, there is no way not to be in agreement, since General Videla's negotiations are based on what we previously agreed at the military junta.

Regarding the fourth man, he stated that the statute specifically provides that the presidency must be exercised by a retired high officer of any of the three forces. That excludes a civilian at this stage, but not at a later stage.

Regarding the answer given by an 18-year-old man when he was questioned during a television interview on the Beagle problem, "I don't know whether I am interested," Admiral Massera indicated that "this type of loser's mentality has cost us, from the last century until today, territory in the south as big as Italy. But we also have another distorted concept--what we could call the mentality of self-denial [mentalidad de pozo]--those who think that giving up territory implies an attitude of greatness, like a well which grows larger as more soil is removed from it."

BEAGLE TRIBUNAL TURNS DOWN ARGENTINE REJECTION

PY092053Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1825 GMT 9 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Vatican City, 9 Mar--The arbitration court which made a decision on the Beagle dispute between Argentina and Chile reported here through a spokesman that the decision made 9 months ago is legally mandatory and must be carried out. According to the spokesman, the court "Declared null and void" the Argentine declaration of 25 January 1978 which nullified the decision. The spokesman said that the court will ask the Argentine Government to report on measures taken to carry out the decision.

MONTES LEAVES FOR BORDER CEREMONY IN URUGUAY

PY062152Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1330 GMT 6 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 6 Mar--Foreign Minister Oscar Antonio Montes left today for Colonia, Uruguay, to attend with his Uruguayan counterpart, Alejandro Rovira, the ceremony which will definitely set the boundary posts which will mark the jurisdictional limits of the two countries in the River Plate.

One of the landmarks will be placed on Colonia's lighthouse, 170 km from Montevideo, and will mark the end of the line which links Colonia with Punta Lara, in Argentina, from where the width of the strip over which each nation will have exclusive jurisdiction in the River Plate and on the coastline will be modified.

The other mark will be placed on the Punta Gorda parallel, also on the coast of Colonia, and will mark the farthest interior point of the River Plate in accordance with the provisions of the treaty signed by both countries 5 years ago.

HERALD CALLS FOR FREEDOM OF DETAINEES

PY081000Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 8 Mar 78 p 8 PY

[Editorial: "The Bravo Case"]

[Text] Six months ago today, Alfredo Bravo, the moderate, middle-of-the-road leader of the Confederation of Education Workers of the Argentine Republic and joint president of the respected, government-recognized Permanent Assembly for Human Rights (APDH), was spirited away from a night school class by a group of men claiming to be police officers. His whereabouts remained a mystery for 13 days when, in a surprise announcement, the Interior Ministry revealed that Professor Bravo was being held under arrest in La Plata.

He had been seized in the wake of a chain of still unsolved disappearances of prominent people who by no stretch of the imagination could be linked with subversion, notably former Presidential Press Secretary Edgardo Sajon, Argentine Ambassador to Venezuela Hector Hidalgo Sola and leading journalist Rodolfo Fernandez Pondal. Fears for his life were assuaged when he was placed at the disposal of the executive power; and it was assumed that he would soon be released. Yet half a year later Professor Bravo remains in prison in La Plata. No charges have been brought against him. His situation parallels that of the dissidents in the Soviet Union and, like the opponents of totalitarian communism in that country, he was adopted by Amnesty International, last year's Nobel Peace Prize award winner, as a "prisoner of conscience." It is a cruelly ironic situation for a man who has fought against totalitarianism all his life. It is an embarrassingly ironic situation for this government. If there is something against Professor Bravo that nobody else knows, why hasn't he been charged and brought to trial? If, as his record of public service, his friends and his political commitment to the Radical Party would seem to testify, he is the victim of a mistake, why hasn't he been released?

In La Plata, Professor Bravo is being held among a group of prisoners referred to by the wardens as "PPB's." This description is too crude in Spanish to be published here. But a rough translation is that Professor Bravo is among those who have been "imprisoned for being stupid." Perhaps Professor Bravo's arrest might fall into the category of what President Videla once called "an excess of zeal" on the part of the security forces. It is understandable if, in combatting terrorism, the security forces occasionally over-react. It is not surprising that the original tolerant complacency with which past authorities confronted subversion "as a purely police matter" has been replaced by an overly suspicious attitude which has led to some unfortunate errors. Mario di Benedetto, one of Argentina's leading writers and a man of proven innocence, was held for a year and half without being charged before he was finally released. Unless we wish to be compared with the Soviet Union in our treatment of moderates, every effort must be made to free people who are being held without charges. The freeing of Professor Bravo would be seen by Argentina's friends abroad as an indication that the military government is truly concerned about law, order and justice. The enemies of democratic Argentina, at home and abroad, must rejoice every day that Professor Bravo and other people referred to as "PPB's" languish in jail. While Professor Bravo, like the eminent journalist Jacobo Timerman, another Amnesty "prisoner of conscience," remain in jail despite the fact that they have not been charged or have been cleared, we are inviting the extreme left to smear us with our own tar brush.

TWO AIDES OF MARTINEZ DE HOZ RESIGN

PY072106Y Buenos Aires Radio El Mundo in Spanish 1500 GMT 7 Mar 78 PY

[Text] It has been officially confirmed that two of Martinez de Hoz' advisers have presented their resignations to the minister. According to official sources, the following persons had tendered their resignations: Ricardo Estrena, trade systems under secretary; and Col Ricardo Carlos Castellanos, National Sugar Department director.

BRIEFS

MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS--Buenos Aires, 7 Mar--Social Welfare Minister Julio Juan Bardi today swore in Captain Jose Maria Cohen, former secretary general of the ministry, as secretary of coordination and social planning; Captain Isidoro Antonio Paradelo as coordination and social planning under secretary; and Captain Alfredo Jose Maria Fernandez, as chief of the minister's advisory team. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2325 GMT 7 Mar 78 PY]

INTERIOR MINISTER SAYS SECURITY LAW WILL CONTINUE

PY070040Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 6 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Interior Minister Guillermo Jimenez Gallo reiterated to an evening newspaper reporter that the state's security law would continue in force because it guarantees institutions and the country's internal stability in general. Jiminez stated that it should not be forgotten that the state security law was proclaimed when Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas occupied the nation's vice presidency and presidency. Therefore, it is inconceivable that he should now object to this legal disposition which will only further guarantee the present electoral process. The interior minister does not consider the state security law an obstacle to the normal development of political activity.

The repeal of this decree law has not only been requested by the president of the Human Rights Commission, but also by numerous political and union organizations which have called it "unconstitutional" and stated that it should not be in force when Bolivians are called on to exercise their civil rights through elections in July of this year.

The state security law was proclaimed during the administration of President Rene Barrientos. The present military government put it in force to guard the social peace of the country, according to reasons offered at the time.

Today, the interior minister was firm in answering the request made by political parties and civic and labor organizations, by saying that the law would continue in force because it guarantees the nation's internal stability.

WIDE SUPPORT REPORTED FOR BERNAL ESCALANTE CANDIDACY

PY080101Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 7 Mar PY

[Text] During earlier programs we reported on events which took place in Cochabamba, where the candidacy of Gen Rene Bernal Escalante for the presidency in the July elections was confirmed. We should reiterate that the report generated all sorts of reaction in La Paz political circles. The report was disclosed today by the Cochabamba newspaper LOS TIEMPOS. According to the paper, the former national defense minister would have the support of a coalition of political parties and civic organizations. The newspaper mentioned the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], the Paz Estenssoro faction of the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR], the Guevara Arce faction of the Authentic Revolutionary Party [PRA], Siles Suazo's National Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI], Guillermo Aponte Burela's Socialist Party, the Barrientist Party, and the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB], independent citizens, peasant groups, union and labor organizations, and sports groups would also support General Bernal's candidacy.

The report caused great confusion to the public, or the "silent majority" as some call it. What is interesting about the report is that leftist political parties, which had said that there were still no concrete alliances formed, are mentioned as supporting General Bernal's candidacy. They had said that everything was still in the negotiating state.

The presence of Hernan Siles Suazo in the country could present a new alternative on the national political panorama.

However, today it was reiterated that political parties have still not reached any decision regarding support of a military candidate for the elections in opposition to Gen Juan Pereda Asbun. The nation's political situation, which became considerably more confusing with the report in LOS TIEMPOS, should clear up during the next few hours.

PRIN Not Backing Bernal

PY090205Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Another political party has denied rumors of support for former Defense Minister Gen Rene Bernal Escalante as president. The Revolutionary Party of the Nationalist Left [PRIN], led by Juan Lechin Oquendo, has disclosed that it still has not discussed the possibility of forming an alliance with leftist factions. According to Lechin, the reason for this is that we are undergoing an electoral process without full liberties or guarantees, and with an official candidate backed by the people's money.

He also stated the PRIN's desire to form a broad leftist front as the only hope to solve the problems of the working class, the peasants, businessmen, small industries, middle class and intellectuals. To summarize, Lechin said that formation of the front depends on the position adopted by the remaining parties and political organizations.

RESUMPTION OF BRAZILIAN GAS TALKS DENIED

PY081907Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1731 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 8 Mar--Bolivian Energy and Hydrocarbons Minister Luis Cordero denied here today that the Bolivian-Brazilian negotiations regarding the sale of gas to Brazil have resumed. Colonel Cordero stated: "The negotiations are at an impasse and I do not know the origin of the report which states that these negotiations resumed in Rio de Janeiro."

Reports from Rio de Janeiro noted that Maj Carlos Morales, manager of the Bolivian iron and steel sector, is in Rio de Janeiro negotiating new prices for the sale of Bolivian natural gas to Brazil.

BRIEFS

PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, GAS EXPORT--La Paz--It was officially reported here today that Bolivia will produce 16 million barrels of petroleum in 1978. The Bolivian State Petroleum Company added that the present production of 33,000 barrels per day will be increased to about 44,453 barrels. According to official estimates, Bolivia will export 152 million cubic feet of gas per day to Argentina. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1622 GMT 4 Mar 78 PY]

COST OF LIVING--La Paz, 6 Mar--According to official statistics from the National Statistics Institute, the cost of living in Bolivia increased by 10.46 percent in 1977. The largest increases were recorded in January (3.21) and June (3.66). [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2355 GMT 6 Mar 78 PY]

FURTHER DETAILS ON LIFTING OF STATE OF SIEGE

PY091541Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1508 GMT 9 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 9 Mar--It was officially reported here today that the Chilean military government will lift the state of siege which has been in force since 1973. President Augusto Pinochet made this important announcement during a press conference.

The measure will take effect next Saturday since the respective decree will not be renewed. The curfew, however, will be maintaintained but it will now be called "restrictions on night-time activities."

A state of siege has been in force in Chile since 11 September 1973, after socialist President Salvador Allende's government was overthrown (1970-1973). Since it came into effect the state of siege was aimed at combating internal subversion and enhancing national security. This situation included a curfew which now will be in force from 0200 to 0530, local time, and which was extended 1 hour during weekends.

PINOCHET DISCUSSES STATE OF SIEGE, LETELIER

PY092041Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 9 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpts] President Augusto Pinochet has announced that the state of siege will automatically cease to be enforced on 11 March 1978.

The president this morning disclosed the reasons which led him to adopt his decision after studying the results of the national consultation held on 4 January, the latest Gallup poll and the present national situation. The president convoked a special meeting this morning to make this announcement and to discuss the Letelier case.

Regarding this last issue the president said that the Chilean Government had nothing to do with the assassination of the former Chilean socialist foreign minister and ambassador which was perpetrated in Washington, D.C., in September 1976. In addition, he expressed his belief that the present situation has been caused by another carefully planned communist campaign against the Chilean Government.

The president stated that he had carefully studied the results of the national consultation held on 4 January and noted the result of the polls carried out by the Gallup company.

[begin recording] The results show that there has been a considerable increase in support for the government between December 1977 and March 1978. Polls conducted in December 1977 among the Santiago metropolitan population show that there was 53.2 percent support [words indistinct] and in March this support increased to (?77.3) percent. In December 1977 there was an average increase of (?4.71) percent in support for the government and there was a (?5.27) percent increase for the present month.

The support which the population gives to President Pinochet is greater and is continuously increasing, that is, the president (?and the government) have improved their images [words indistinct]. A total of 80.6 percent of the population supports the president and all the studies show that the rate of support has increased. [end recording]

Later he discussed the schedule of the curfew, which is now to be called restrictions on nighttime activity. [begin recording] This schedule will now be established by the respective regional intendants, but there are restrictions on nighttime activity mainly due to economic reasons, such as saving gas, electricity, etc. These restrictions may continue to be the same or enforced at different hours, but this is a problem which will be solved by each intendant. [end recording]

Regarding the situation concerning Letelier's assassination, the president emphasized the cooperative attitude the Chilean Government had shown toward the investigations and discussed this issue in detail. [passage indistinct]

PRESS CONTINUES COVERAGE OF LETELIER CASE

PY091903Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1426 GMT 9 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 9 Mar--The Chilean press highlighted again today the investigations of the murder of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier and presented various theories on its unforseen consequences.

In this regard, the newspaper LA TERCERA pointed out in its editorial that "the wanted suspects are at this time part of a chain, the end of which is not known and which may have surprising links." The same newspaper then published a headline on another page: "It is true: The Official Who Granted the Passports Committed Suicide." The newspaper then explained the death of Guillermo Osorio, former consular director of the Foreign Ministry, which occurred on 22 October 1977. Osorio, because of the post he held in 1976, would have been the person in charge of delivering or processing the official passports which, according to the American Embassy in Santiago, were granted to the alleged Chilean citizens Juan Williams Rose and Alejandoro Romeral. Williams and Romeral have been called by the U.S. Justice Department for interrogation on Letelier's murder, which occurred in Washington in 1976. In conclusion, the newspaper stated that the required legal autopsy was not done on the former official.

The newspaper EL MERCURIO, continuing its own investigation on the Letelier case, published on the front page a photograph of Chilean Armando Fernandez, as the alleged Alejandro Romeral. The same newspaper, however, along with its investigations, published the statement made by the Chilean Army which indicates that "it is true that Capt Armando Fernandez Larios is a member of the army and belongs to the infantry."

The Chilean Army statement then said: "This insitution has no record, however, that the Foreign Ministry had granted the captain a passport in his name or another name."

EL MERCURIO also published a denial made by the American citizen Michael Townley, who this newspaper last Sunday alleged to be Juan Williams Rose, the other suspect wanted by American authorities. In a letter sent to the newspaper, Townley indicated that "I have never used or traveled under the name of Juan Williams Rose. I have never held or traveled with a Chilean passport, much less with an official Chilean passport. He also emphasized: "I do not have any responsibility in Orlando Letelier's murder and I do not know who killed him."

The progovernment newspaper EL CRONISTA stated that the government requested a "total clarification of the Letelier case."

The investigations into the murders of the former foreign minister, former defense minister and former ambassador to Washington during the presidency of the late socialist President Salvador Allende (1970-1973), have been carried out on three fronts. First, the American court completed its investigation. The Chilean court, in the meantime, received from the American court a request to interrogate the alleged Chilean suspects. Finally, the Chilean Supreme Court appointed a special judge to investigate the alleged irregularity of official passports granted by the Chilean Foreign Ministry to Juan Williams Rose and Alejandro Romeral Jara.

EYZAGUIRRE SAYS SUPREME COURT NEEDS AUTONOMY

PY021431Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 2 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile--Yesterday, Supreme Court President Jose Maria Eyzaguirre opened court activities with a 20-page speech. In his speech the high-ranking official reasserted that the judiciary branch must have financial autonomy as the only true and appropriate solution for its severe problems.

Discussing this matter, Jose Maria Eyzaguirre, whose term in office will end next May, stated: After almost 46 years of uninterrupted service in the judiciary branch I view its somber future with deep concern. The measures required for the improvement of its situation are not being implemented with the required courage, swiftness and urgency.

He added: I do not wish to shirk my duty to point out that Chilean justice, of which we have always been proud, has been suffering a slow and relentless agony. I cannot forget, emphasized the president of the Supreme Court, that the court is one of the main pillars of the state of law and an essential element in guaranteeing the rights of each and every one of the citizens.

On the same subject, Eyzaguirre indicated that the portion of the state budget allocated to the judiciary branch has been constantly declining. Even though the original allotment for 1977 had been 0.65 percent, it had been reduced to 0.59 during the year.

In his speech, Eyzaguirre did not discuss the government-sponsored draft reforms and amendments of the civil and criminal law which are being currently studied by legislative committees.

TRUCKOWNERS UNION LEADER SUBMITS RESIGNATION

PY081332Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 0930 GMT 8 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile--Leon Vilarin, president of the truckowners union, has resigned his post. Commenting on his resignation, the union leader noted that he had made this decision because of moral principles. Vilarin added: "A person who is questioned by the law cannot preside over a union." He noted that he will not evade his responsibilities and will answer to all charges that are made against him. He added that "these are not personal debts" and that he had the unanimous approval of the union leadership for every economic obligation that was undertaken. Leon Vilarin will submit his resignation during the union meeting on 1 and 2 April.

CALI POLICE REPORT NEW STUDENT DISORDERS

PA091953Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Cali--New street disturbances occurred at noon today in Cali. The police confirmed a few minutes ago that rioting students burned an official vehicle in Peritillo sector and stoned other vehicles. The driver of the official vehicle, whose name was not disclosed, was injured.

POLICE SEIZE ARMS CACHE, ARREST STUDENTS

PA091951Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Mar 78 PA

[Text] A large arms cache, presumably destined for guerrilla groups, was discovered today by Bogota police intelligence agents. The material, including fragmentation bombs, Czech-made pistols, revolvers and a large quantity of ammunition, was carried by two university students who boarded a Magdalena bus which was traveling from Medellin to Cali.

The secret agents searched the bus when it reached a police checkpoint and found several boxes which had been camouflaged to conceal the material. The university students, [name indistinct] and Armando Castillo, were turned over to authorities.

MINISTER DEFENDS GASOLINE PRICE INCREASE

PA081300Y Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 0030 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Text] According to estimates revealed by Finance Minister Santiago Sevilla, the minimum price of a gallon of premium gasoline should be 7.60 sucres based on a price of 37 sucres per barrel of Ecuadorean petroleum. The price per gallon would be 15.08 sucres if the estimate is based on the international price of 237.50 sucres per barrel.

The minister reported that in both cases it is a proven fact that the present price of 4.65 sucres does not cover the production, refining, distribution and retailing costs of the gasoline.

In revealing these figures in a press bulletin, Sevilla rejected the invitation made by Camilo Mena, Central University rector and president of the Patriotic Front for the Defense of Natural Resources, to discuss gasoline prices in a public debate. According to Mena, the price of gasoline at the Esmeraudas refinery is 1.87 sucres per gallon plus certain expenses for distribution and retailing. Thus, a price increase is not justified.

Mena had proposed to hold the debate tomorrow at 1700 at the university, but Minister Sevilla did not accept.

In his bulletin, Sevilla admitted that the higher gasoline prices will increase the profits of the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation [CEPA] and the government to enable it to carry out its educational programs. However, he stressed that a reduction of petroleum consumption, and therefore consumption of gasoline and other byproducts, will decrease the loss in foreign exchange which can be used to finance vital imports to increase increase industrial and agricultural growth and to cancel foreign debts.

There used to be an outrageously high consumption of gasoline and a squandering of income derived from oil. The government is now trying to control this. It is obvious that the strengthening of government finances and the achievement of a more secure international economic position are goals of unquestionable value which this ministry has set and tries to defend, the minister said.

PATRIA DEFENDS NATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS STAND

PY100245Y Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 9 Mar 78 p 1 PY

[Editorial: "Reaching an Agreement"]

[Text] In his suggestions to increase the flexibility of human rights policy--to be more specific, of foreign policy regarding human rights--as seen in his country, Terence Todman, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, has initiated a rather intelligent dialog as the basis of that increased flexibility by saying: "We should avoid waiting until other governments make sudden fundamental changes in their societies and practices in response to our demands and without taking historic circumstances into consideration." In other words, you have to know how to put yourself in the other guy's shoes. However, Patricia Derian, another U.S. assistant secretary of state, is apparently more harsh when she says that "we will grant a proportionately lesser amount of our aid to governments whose attitudes concerning human rights are improper...." This "aid includes that which could be granted in credits from international organizations through which the United States seems to want to impose its political guidelines.

We can detect two positions on the issue: one, a thought-out and balanced point of view sustained by a man; the other, an excessively orthdox and rigid stand sustained by a woman.

With respect to what concerns our country, what Terence Todman says is of great interest to us--especially the part about taking historic circumstances into consideration" in each country. This thought sustains the idea that a country is the result of its circumstances in the same way that a man is the result of his circumstances. In this regard, we have a lot to say about human rights. Paraguay, as a nation and a people, was the victim of untold abuses in human rights and sometimes the world's bitter forerunner of such abuses--as a victim, of course. When we gained our independence from Spain, Buenos Aires did not spare even bellicose efforts to conquer us, while Portugal unleashed its bands of raiders in an effort to enlarge its territories at the expense of a young nation. This constituted a violation of the self-determination of the people and a violation of the territory of a nation. In addition to the fact that the raiders took away entire villages to sell them as slaves. We were saved by the ingenuity, the strength and the courage of [Jose Gaspar Rodriguez de] Francia, who taught us a HISTORICAL lesson such as Todman has in mind, a lesson which still subsists subconsciously among all Paraguayans: Either we stay on our guard or we get swallowed. Marshal Lopez must have been vividly aware of this, although he was not able to prevent the Triple Alliance War from giving Paraguay the nefarious privilege of being the first nation, one century before Cambodia and Biafra, to fall victim to collective genocide. This is still another HISTORICAL experience which has molded a national personality which, according to Todman, must be respected and viewed as a determining factor for political behavior. But Paraguay's suffering did not end there. A courageous attempt to rebuild the country was made after 1870, but this hopeful effort was thwarted by the violence unleashed in 1904. The permanent violation of human rights again became, for many years, a bitter everyday occurrence. Feuds sprouted among foreign capitalists who owned large tracts of land, feuds between yerba mate growers, between forest exploitation enterprises, between industrialists, feuds in which the Paraguayan was not part of the proletariat, but a slave and, when he tried to become a proletarian, he was imply machinegunned without pity.

The "Paraguayan" governments which allowed this to happen and helped it happen merely followed the letter and the spirit of the Triple Alliance Treaty which postulated the liquidation of everything that could be liquidated in relation to human dignity in Paraguay. An immediate consequence of such a state of things was another HISTORICAL aberration which Paraguay was the first to suffer in the modern word: the massive, compulsory exile of the population to neighboring countries to escape from fear and horror. This was still another crime against human rights. But things did not end there: Between 1904 and 1931 Paraguay offered the macabre spectacle of a people devouring themselves. Paraguayan fought Paraguayan in 13 armed uprisings, 4 field revolutions--2 of which could be classed as bloody civil wars--and 9 military revolts. Two massacres of workers and one of students took place in 1931. And so as to not lose the doubtful privilege of being always the first country in disgrace in the entire world, the first concentration camp in the whole planet, at least a concentration camp as we know them now, was created in Paraguay in Fortin Galpon.

In spite of all this bloodshed Paraguay went on to defend its territorial integrity in the Chaco War and preserved it at the cost of 40,000 young and valuable lives.

In the whole planet not a single voice was raised to put an end to this sorrowful fate of our fatherland, either in the name of human rights or any other humane consideration. And then came 1947. Due to our location in the heart of America, international communism chose us to be the first Soviet satellite in Latin America, long before Arbenz's Guatemala or Castro's Cuba, and this led to a civil war. On one side were the allies of the Communists, the Liberals, the Febrerists and a large portion of the then Liberal army. On the other side were the Colorado military units faithful to their historical role.

The Colorados won. In 1954 Gen Alfredo Stroessner became president of the country and from then on the entire meaning of his government can be summarized in a single decision: to never again return to the horrors of the past; to strengthen domestic peace; to create the appropriate conditions for progress and development; and to draw up laws aimed at channeling the resulting benefits toward the economic, social, cultural and political well-being of the people. This he has achieved in full, and remembering their bitter past, the people, epitomized by the Colorado Party to which the president belongs, support him in strength, as shown by the percentages resulting from the elections. With him, and for the first time since 1904, we have known the benefits of freedom and democracy and the invigorating feeling of living under the protection of the law. If during his time there were violations of human rights, there were the 14 attempts to organize rural guerrillas from abroad, attempts which were carried out by the Marxists and which are still going on. If the idea is that to defend our legitimate rights is to go against human rights, someone must have lost his mind, because we have not.

"We will grant a proportionately lesser amount of our aid to governments whose attitudes concerning human rights are IMPROPER...," says Mrs Derian, but IMPROPER by whose standards? On what basis? And determined by whom?

While these questions still stand, we support another statement of hers: that many favorable changes have taken place in many countries with regard to the human rights issue and that the United States "claims no credit for these changes" since they must have been "the result of many factors, INCLUDING THE INTERNAL DYNAMICS OF THE COUNTRIES." The latter is precisely our case: a substantial change implemented by the internal nationalist and democratic dynamics of President Stroessner's government, IN LINE--AS MR TODMAN WANTS--WITH OUR HISTORICAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

OPINION LIBRE CALLS FOR INTERNATIONALIZED PANAMA CANAL

Lima OPINION LIBRE 27 Feb 78 p 9 WA

[Article by Guillermo Hoyos Osores: "The U.S.-Panama Treaty"]

[Excerpts] Panama has, of course, always had the full support of Latin America in its quest to restore its sovereignty over its territorial and maritime heritage. Our people, who have been closely tied to the Panamanians since the very first days of the conquest of America, consider the restoration of complete independence to Panama to be a just cause. No vestige of colonialism should remain there.

However, the diplomacy of the "septenato" [seventeen man presidential advisory committee] irresponsibly extended Peru's support to extremes that it never should have endorsed because they are incompatible with one of the basic principles of international law and, moreover, because they threaten our own interests. Torrijo's government maintains that Panama owns the canal and considers it to be one of its "natural resources." This claim, however, although still upheld to a certain degree in the new Panamanian-U.S. treaty, contradicts the very nature of international waterways which [are meant to] serve all countries of the world and do not belong to any one of them in particular. They are the heritage of all humanity.

The two Suez Canal crises are perfect examples of what can happen when such a waterway is seized by any one state. Egypt was ruined and the rest of the world seriously jeopardized.

Not even the United States, which built the canal, has ever done this. Nor has the U.S. ever invoked the clauses of the Buneau-Varilla Treaty in order to proclaim themselves as the owners of this interoceanic waterway. On the contrary, the regulatory laws of the canal issued by the U.S. Congress clearly recognize its international status.

The new treaty, however, has been discussed and signed bilaterally as if it were not a matter of interest to the entire international community nor, in particular, to Latin America. The canal should be internationalized. Haya de la Torre proposed this 50 years ago. Obviously, this solution (which would leave Panama's sovereignty intact) would be more in accord with the fundamental principles of maritime law, better for Latin America and the only adequate way to preserve Peruvian interests.

We know all too well the statement by Torrijos' government itself that after the year 2000 (when the canal is handed over to Panama) the passageway between the Atlantic and the Pacific will be exploited as a "natural resource," that is to say, for the purpose of getting out of it the greatest possible profit at the expense of international traffic. Moreover, as a consequence of the agreement now pending before the U.S. Congress, an even greater threat to the users of the canal can be seen--a tremendous and immediate rise in tolls.

According to a statement published in the Lima dailies, when the discussion of the new U.S.-Panama treaty began in the Senate, the chairman of one of the main Senate committees, Senator Stennis, revealed that President Carter, in order to put Stennis and his supporters at ease, had assured him that the tremendous cost of giving up the Zone and the canal (estimated at a billion dollars) would be covered entirely by tolls. Now we know who will have to pay the piper.

Victim number one will be Peru because a high percentage of its foreign trade passes through the canal in both directions. No other American country (with the exception of Ecuador) will be as jeopardized as ours will be. Merely looking at a map will confirm this.

All of this was perfectly foreseeable, but revolutionary diplomacy, prompted by "ideological concerns," was not in accordance with national interests. Torrijos, the praetorian dictator, bragged about the Third World and pro-Castroism, shouted anti-American statements and opposed the OAS support of antiterrorist accords. These constituted sufficient reasons for the "septenato" to swallow unconditionally (lock, stock and barrel) all of his demands without reservation.

Now, from hindsight, we see the consequences of this irresponsibility. We have to do everything possible to avoid or minimize them. There is still time to save Peru.

AMBASSADOR TORRIJOS DENIES RESIGNATION RUMORS

PA091500Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1612 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Madrid, 8 Mar (AFP)--Moises Torrijos, Panamanian ambassador to Spain who was accused by a U.S. committee [as received] of drug trafficking, today denied reports that he had resigned.

In statements to the newspaper EL ALCAZAR, he said: "There has been no such resignation. I am well established here and I will remain until I complete my term at the end of the year or in early 1979." Ambassador Torrijos stated emphatically that "I have received official information from Panama with regard to my remaining in Spain and the Spanish Foreign Ministry has also received the corresponding confirmation from the Spanish ambassador to Panama." The Panamanian diplomat, who was received by King Juan Carlos on Tuesday, noted that "the audience consisted of a private conversation which had been delayed because of the king's trips."

FEP STUDENTS DENOUNCE DENIAL OF U.S. VISAS

PA100406Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 10 Mar 78 PA

[Text] A group of Panamanian Students Federation [FEP] leaders, headed by Secretary General Mario Panther, paid a visit to this station's newsroom tonight to present a denunciation against the U.S. Embassy's consular section. Student Panther said that the FEP's attempts to send its delegates to New York City to attend the events marking the week of solidarity with Panama from 10 to 12 March are being hampered. The week of solidarity has been organized by the Panama Task Force organization which represents Panamanians living in New York City and to which the Panamanian students group belongs.

The Panamanian Students Federation has been invited to state the historic struggle stands of the Panamanian people for the recovery of the Panama Canal Zone. However, the consular office told the FEP secretary general that it has only granted four of the eight visas required for the eight-member Panamanian student delegation's trip.

The visas that were denied were requested by students Mario Panther, Luis Sinclair, Elba Gonzalez and Jack London. Panther said that the visas are usually granted by the U.S. Consulate within 24 hours' time. Since they are active student militants, however, a thorough investigation by U.S. authorities is required.

Mario Panther said that Permanent Ambassador to the United Nations Jorge Illueca and Panamanian Ambassador to the United States Gabriel Lewis Galindo have been invited to participate in the event of solidarity.

The visas that were granted had been requested by students Magda Sanchez, Abraham Martinez, Fernando Boyd and Ibero Iglesias. At 0900 tomorrow, a delegation of FEP members will go to the U.S. Embassy's consular office in order to claim their visas, the granting of which is up to Mr Harry Queen, who is the director.

LABOR MINISTRY CONFIRMS REJECTION OF CAPAC REQUEST

PA081805Y Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 7 Mar 78 pp 1-A, 4-A PA

[Text] The Labor and Social Welfare Ministry has confirmed a resolution previously released by that institution's General Labor Directorate rejecting "the moratorium requested by the Panamanian Construction Chamber (CAPAC) and recommending that the companies affiliated to that organization make individual rquests."

This development was learned after this newspaper received resolution No DM-20-78 signed by Minister Adolfo Ahumada and Vice Minister Dr Jorge Eduardo Ritter. This document bases its decision on Article 5 of Law No 95 of 31 December 1976 and on Article 9, Section "L" of Cabinet Decree No 249 of 1970.

The confirming resolution released by the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry states that "at no time has it disregarded CAPAC's status as representative of its affiliated enterprises."

The document also states that "it is precisely Article 5 of Law No 95 of 31 December 1976 which clearly states that any company (that) is unable to pay its workers the wage increases corresponding to the extension period [prorroga] "may request a moratorium of their implementation by the ministry."

The document adds that "as can be observed, the provisions set forth in this article define the company as an individual juridical person, since in order to grant the moratorium requested it is necessary to check and verify its economic situation."

The rejection of CAPAC's moratorium request by the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry created quite a stir in the country's business circles and led to a strong statement by the president of the National Council of Private Enterprise, which was followed by a CAPAC communique.

BRIEFS

LOAN FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS--In London today, 66 banks from 22 countries participated in the signing of a $170 million loan agreement with Panama. The money will be used for development projects such as the electrification projects of La Estrella-Los Valles and La Fortuna in Chiriqui Province, the Vacamonte fishing port, the continuation of the highway to Darien, the construction of the Arraijan-La Chorrera highway, construction of a water plant in Colon, construction of a convention center and the expansion of the Colon Free Zone. Vice President Gerardo Gonzalez signed the loan for Panama. [Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Mar 78 PA]

EL SALVADOR

ATTACKS, CLASHES REPORTED IN VARIOUS AREAS

Attack on Bus

PA081320Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0315 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 7 Mar (LATIN)--The National Guard is carrying out a general search in northern El Salvador for the 40 individuals who this morning attacked a bus carrying two subversives. The attackers freed the two prisoners after heavy shooting.

The Defense and Security Ministry reported the incident tonight, indicating that National Guardsmen, treasury police and national police detectives, duly reinforced by troops, are participating in the search for the criminals.

The bus carrying the two subversives was seriously damaged by bullets from various caliber weapons. It is believed that several of the attackers were wounded when the National Guard repelled the attack.

The two prisoners who were freed were being taken to the lower court of the city of Chalatenango, 96 km from San Salvador. The ambush occurred in Chalatenango.

Post in San Miguel Raided

PA090252Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2150 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 8 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--An unidentified terrorist died early this morning in San Miguel, 138 km east of this capital, when he and several other terror' attacked a National Guard post. The announcement was made this afternoon by the presidential information office.

The report stated that at approximately 0430 local time (1030 GMT), several guardsmen were attacked in the eastern part of the city when they were conducting raids to capture common criminals. It was also reported, although unofficially, that the Nicaraguan Consulate in this town had been attacked with bombs.

PCN Secretaries' Homes Machinegunned

PA082110Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2378 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--This morning unidentified persons machinegunned the residence of the secretary of the ruling National Conciliation Party (PCN) in Cinquera, 71 km north of San Salvador. A similar incident occurred at the house of the PCN secretary in El Tule District in the same reion. No one was hurt in the attacks despite the fact that in both cases parents and children were a short distrance away from where the bullets hit.

It has unofficially been reported that members of the leftist organization Farm Workers Union (UTC) and the Salvadoran Christian Peasants Federation (FECCAS) are to blame for the actions. During the past several months, those organizations have been occupying farmland in Cinquera.

Mayor's Office in El Paisnal

PA100237Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Early this morning a group of terrorists showed up in the town of El Paisnal, San Salvador Department, and set fire to the mayor's office building by hurling several flaming objects at it, it was officially reported today. As a result of this new attack against order and public property, all the furniture and official files containing birth certificates, marriage licenses and death certificates as well as other community property were destroyed, the press communique issued by the office of the presidency's information secretary says.

GUATEMALA

DCG SAYS PERALTA AZURDIA ELECTION WINNER

PA100112Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0056 GMT 10 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Gen Ricardo Peralta Mendez, presidential candidate of the opposition Guatemalan Christian Democracy [DCG], admitted today that the winners of Sunday's presidential election is Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia, candidate of the anticommunist National Liberation Movement. The surprise announcement was made while the official tally of the votes cast in the election gives the victory to Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas Garcia, candidate of the centrist coalition composed of the Revolutionary Party and the Democratic Institutional Party. "According to our figures, Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia is the candidate who obtained the most votes," Peralta Mendez announced.

According to the Guatemalan Electoral Council, the official tally gives the most votes to General Lucas Garcia, followed by Peralta Azurdia. General Peralta Mendez is running third.

MLN SUPPORTERS DEMONSTRATE TO PROTEST FRAUD

PA091955Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1936 GMT 9 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 9 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Hundreds of men armed with machineguns and pistols staged a demonstration this afternoon in front of the headquarters of the National Liberation Movement (MLN) in support of presidential candidate Col Enrique Peralta Azurdia. Shouting "if they want blood, they shall have it," the demonstrators, wearing straw hats and carrying large MLN flags, maintained that there is an attempt to rob rightist Peralta Azurdia of the victory won in last Sunday's national elections.

"Fraud, fraud," shouted the demonstrators, who completely blocked the street where the MLN offices are located. In 1954 the MLN overthrew the leftist government of Col Jacobo Arbenz by force of arms.

The MLN candidate, Peralta Azurdia, appeared on one of the balconies of the building, accompanied by Mario Sandoval Alarcon, vice president of the republic and top anti-communist leader of this country. Colonel Peralta Azurdia told the demonstrators that he has won the elections and that the members of the MLN will make sure that the people's will is respected at all costs.

MLN DEPUTY CANDIDATE KIDNAPED IN NORTH

PA081659Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1648 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Antonio Najera Saravia, candidate for deputy from Coban, Alta Verapaz, of the anticommunist National Liberation Movement [MLN], was kidnaped today. Mario Sandoval Alarcon, vice president of the republic and director of the MLN, made the announcement today, Wednesday. This kidnaping, as well of that of the electoral registry delegate in the same place in the north, has been reported to President Kjell Laugerud Garcia and to the National Electoral Council authorities.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON STRIKES IN COUNTRY

Social Security Doctors

PA100415Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1817 GMT 9 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The doctors of the Guatemalan Social Security Institute today declared a strike in demand of higher wages. The strike was ordered by the doctors union of the institute which said that so far their attempts to obtain higher salaries from the government have been useless. The strike affects all the social security hospitals in Guatemala City and the interior. Only emergency services are operating.

Bakers Strike Continues

PA100416Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1837 GMT 9 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 9 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan bakers union is in the 12th day of its strike in demand of higher wages. Meanwhile, the people have begun to resent the lack of bread. Workers of the Industria de Esmaltes y Aceros de Centroamerica, who have been on a hunger strike in demand of the reopening of the factory and the payment of back wages, had to receive medical treatment today because many of them were said to be "seriously ill."

The two groups began their strike along with that of the government workers, whose strike ended on Friday when the government granted to them the requested wage increases. Except for the lack of bread, the two groups' strikes have gone unnoticed by the public in view of the postelection crisis. However, several unions and labor federations today turned their attention to these strikes and will hold general assemblies to decide on actions of support. It is expected that tomorrow at the latest this might produce a new series of related labor conflicts which would add to the chaotic and violent postelectoral situation in the country.

HONDURAS

HONDURAN, NICARAGUAN FORCES IN 'OPERACION VELOZ'

PA090242Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2151 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 8 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The local daily TIEMPO reported today that Honduran Army troops are participating jointly with Nicaraguan troops in "Operacion Veloz," a military operation to wipe out Sandinist guerrilla activity on their common border. To this end, several contingents of specialized antiguerrilla troops were dispatched on Monday to La Lodoza in eastern Honduras to support Nicaraguan troops in the operation against Sandinists.

Quoting persons arriving in this capital, the newspaper revealed that army helicopters have been transporting armaments to the military units.

The unexpected arrival of troops in the broder area has caused concern in the population in view of the casualties caused last year by a similar operation against a group of Honduran peasants allegedly collaborating with Nicaraguan Sandinist guerrillas.

The Honduran Committee for Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People had already denounced the joint military operation since Sunday.

MILITARY RESPONDS TO PRESSURE FROM COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA

PA081732Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1525 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 8 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran Army high command ended a 48-hour meeting last night on national problems and pressure from the communications media to clarify several scandals in which the military is allegedly involved.

The high command decided to hold a press conference to clarify claims made by the media on certain activities of the armed forces and their members.

A study of the public administration was also made last night. There may be changes in the next few weeks, particularly of officials who are discrediting the military regime.

Another point discussed by the high command was the dismissal of some officers whose conduct has been irregular--particularly in the police--as well as the punishment of agents who have repeatedly caused deaths, thereby discrediting the army.

Commander's Press Conference

PA091143Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 9 Mar 78 PA

[SERVICIO Network]

[Text] Honduran Armed Forces Commander in Chief Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia yesterday held a news conference that lasted approximately 5 hours during which he discussed three important issues. Representatives from the various social communications media were present.

The general discussed the (Ferrari) case, international drug trafficking and Operation Veloz--the patrolling of the border with Nicaragua.

General Paz said that as command in chief of the armed forces he had to speak frankly. I did not come here to defend any branch of the armed forces, he said. Referring to drug trafficking, the armed forces chief said that according to investigations, drug trafficking is not a matter of 2 or 5 million lempiras but of 200 or 300 billion lempiras and that, with this kind of money at stake, the drug ring operating in Honduras will not hesitate to eliminate whoever gets in its way so it can freely continue its illegal business.

The commander in chief said that efforts must be directed mainly against the persons responsible for drug trafficking, against those trying to harm our youth. He noted: This is one of the concerns of the military command. Rest assured, he added, that we have issued orders for a thorough investigation and that when the situation is cleared up, we will take to court whoever is found to be implicated, regardless of who it happens to be.

General Paz referred to Operation Veloz, an operation that was made public as a result of an incident. He said: Operation Veloz is not a joint military maneuver by Honduran Army units and the National Guard of Nicaragua. He noted that this operation involves Honduran Army units only.

NICARAGUA

FSLN CLAIMS CREDIT FOR DEATH OF GENERAL PEREZ

FSLN Communique

PA091916Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1806 GMT 9 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 9 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] issued a communique this morning announcing that at approximately 2000 (0200 GMT) yesterday evening the guerrilla organization carried out Operation Commander Camilo Ortega Saavedra, which resulted in the execution of Gen Reynaldo Perez Vega, the presidential chief of staff [jefe del estado mayor presidencial , in the Altamira d'Este residential sector in this capital's southeast area. The communique, which was sent to several Managua radio stations this morning, gives details on how the Arnoldo Quant Ponce and Moises Rivera squadrons were able to temporarily seize General Perez Vega and notes that when they tried to take him to a "people's jail" he offered strong resistance and "our comrades were forced to execute him."

The FSLN communique adds that "as a result of the aggressiveness of henchman Perez Vega and of the security apparatus that protects him--which was a threat to the security of our squadrons--there was no alternative but to execute him."

The communique notes that "this action of revolutionary violence is nothing but an answer to the counterrevolutionary violence that the Somoza dictatorship has been exercising for more than 40 years."

The communique states: "In the face of indiscriminate repression in the mountains in northern Nicaragua--where more than 3,000 peasants have disappeared--of the genocide committed against the people of Monimbo, of the repression in other cities of the country as well as in popular sectors of Managua, the FSLN will be implacable with the enemy that presents a stubborn resistance to revolutionary overthrow. We will be implacable with the enemy."

The Sandinist Front appeals to the people to accelerate their combative attitude at the neighborhood, factory, and labor and peasants league levels "in order to prepare the conditions that will allow us to assume a vanguard position rapidly." The FSLN communique concludes by warning the military, ministers and informers who have "stained their hands with the blood of the people that they must answer to popular justice."

Camilo Ortega Saavedra, after whom the guerrilla operation was named that resulted yesterday evening in the death of presidential chief of staff Reynaldo Perez Vega, was one of the three Sandinist militants who fell on 26 February during a clash with military patrols in the town of Catarina, Masaya Department, east of here.

Army Blames Woman

PA1003O4Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0222 GMT 10 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 9 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Army today blamed Dr Nora Josefina Astorga de Jenkins for last night's killing of Brig Gen Reynaldo Perez Vega, National Guard aide to the supreme commander of the armed forces. A communique issued tonight by the National Guard's legal and public relations office says that General Perez Vega, 52, received a call from Dr Astorga de Jenkins, adviser of the commercial firm Sovipe, "to take care of some business that the officer had with the firm."

The official report adds that about 15 minutes after he arrived at her home, the woman went outside and supposedly gave instructions to the general's chauffeur. He was told that the tasks would have to be carried out at the general's office. The chauffeur immediately set out to accomplish the tasks.

When the orderly came back, he knocked on the door of the house located in the Altamira d'Este neighborhood and, since nobody answered, he decided to wait in the car, which was parked in front of the house until early today. When he knocked on the door again this morning and again nobody answered, he reported the incident to the office of the National Guard aide.

The communique says that to get into the house of Dr Astorga de Jenkins, they had to force the door. "However, no one was inside. The only thing discovered was the body of Gen Reynaldo Perez Vega, which was covered with an FSLN flag.

The communique says that the doctor who examined the body found several wounds in the right parietal region and another on the right side of the neck, which severed the jugular vein.

The body also showed other blows and bruises on the right side of the abdomen, a wound on the right temple and the mark of an injection in the deltoid region of the right arm. The injection was of promisol, which acts as an anesthetic.

The body was tied with cotton and adhesive tape and the mouth was gagged with a handkerchief. It was determined that the aforementioned injuries were the direct cause of his death.

Inside the house, the communique adds, a container with a large number of cigarette butts was found. Subversive literature was found inside a closet. "This shows who is responsible for this condemnable crime, the atrocious assassination of an officer of our institution, a crime which seeks to lead our fatherland into an escalation of violence that will bring chaos and sorrow to Nicaraguans."

The communique, signed by Col Aquiles Aranda Escobar, National Guard spokesman, concludes by stating: "The Nicaraguan National Guard will make every effort to carry out all investigations necessary to find the rest of those responsible for this assassination and to undertake their capture and trial so that the full force of the law will be applied to them."

GOVERNMENT TACKLES INDIAN PROBLEM, CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

PA081747Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1630 GMT 8 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 8 Mar (AFP)--The Nicaraguan Government issued a statement today objecting to public collections for the Monimbo Indians of Masaya. The government suggested that all aid be channeled through Bishop Juan Matamoros.

NOVEDADES, the government newspaper, said that official food donations had been accepted by the Indians and that the disorders in the district were the work of "terrorists." Meanwhile, 17 civic groups of the Indian community of Subtiava, in Leon, 90 miles west, which was also involved in the popular rebellion, announced that they are refusing all government aid. They asked for the release of the political prisoners arrested during the rebellion and an end to persecution of the rebels. It was also announced from another source that an eight-deputy commission appointed on Tuesday to study the proposed legal changes which will permit the operation of political parties of all leanings in Nicaragua will make its findings public scarcely 48 hours after being appointed. The commission was appointed on Tuesday and will issue its decision tomorrow, Thursday, which is an unusually short period of time. Generally, the time given for such a study is 8 days. The commission is composed of six members of the governing Liberal Party and two of the Conservative Party, the only opposition party currently permitted.

INDUSTRIALISTS SAY COUNTRY FACING ENERGY CRISIS

PA091530Y Managua Radio Corporation in Spanish 1220 GMT 9 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The rationing of electricity has already begun. The industrial sector is affected. The Chamber of Industries has received many complaints because without previous notice the National Light and Power Enterprise [ENALUF] has begun rationing electricity in several parts of the country. In the capital there are blackouts every 2 or 3 hours. The same is true in other Nicaraguan cities. Faced with this situation, industrialists have complained that their industries are being greatly harmed by this situation because they have to stop production when there is no power. According to Chamber of Industries spokesmen, Nicaragua is again facing an energy crisis. Although ENALUF has not said so, the crisis is proved by the constant blackouts.

LABOR LEADERS ANNOUNCE PLANS TO FORM PARTY

PA091948Y Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Labor leaders with extensive experience in national labor affairs have expressed the desire to form a new Nicaraguan political party in order to take advantage of institutional reforms and participate in the 1981 elections. Several of these leaders, who asked not to be identified until they publish a document explaining their political and ideological position, have said that they believe that the steps taken by President Somoza in promoting a true political opening and in giving an electoral opportunity to other national sectors is revolutionary and will have an incalculable effect on national life. The workers say that they are ready to form the Nicaraguan Labor Party [Partido Trabajador Nicaraguense--PTN], an organization which was very active many years ago but which was suppressed by the government because the legal conditions existing at the time did not allow the existence of a labor party.

FSLN'S MAURO ACOSTA ADDRESSES SOLIDARITY EVENT

PA100133Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Mar 78 PA

["Excerpts" of speech delivered by Mauro Acosta, representative of Sandinist National Liberation Front, at 8 March 1978 event held at Havana University's Agramonte Plaza--recorded]

[Text] The solidarity and the internationalist spirit born from the generations which carve out a nation's future is doubly encouraging. It is you, Cuban students, who are being trained daily to take the revolutionary ship to a safe port and you who are standing up and being counted at a criticial time for Nicaragua's fiture. The descendants of (Mella) and Sandino embrace again, because the spirits of our forefathers have united in order to come to our help. The hero of Segovia is present in each of your actions, just as with you are Julio Antonio (Mella) and all the young men who gave their blood for this shining (?symbol) which you enjoy today.

The attainment of ideals for which Nicaraguan youths and (?students) are striving has turned them into a ineradicable bastion of revolutionary ideas and an inexhaustible reservoir of Sandinist fighters. Students in Sandino's country live and work in universities and high schools which have been turned into dismal battlefields. The firing of clouds of gas by the soldiers, the machinegunning of autos and ambulances and the indiscriminate [words indistinct] have been everyday events for Nicaraguan students during the past few months. Only a few weeks ago three new names were added to the long list of student martyrs: Jorge Arauco, Martin Zeledon and Fidel Prada, who were brutally murdered on the campus of the Nicaraguan Autonomous National University. The brave and generous blood of the students has joined that of workers, peasants and Indians who fell in these last few days during which the dictatorship was brought to its knees. However, it did not fall because of the generous aid of imperialist soldiers acting in the name of human rights. There is no parallel for this. The behavior of Carter and his minions in Nicaragua showed the world how U.S. weapons, U.S. aid and U.S. mercenary advisers maintain in power a cornered dictatorship whose brutality grows day by day.

But if the terror is great, there is still greater determination and courage because the people know that this [words indistinct] the assurance of a victory is made greater by the participation of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. [applause]

The people know and are convinced that, above all, we must be Nicaraguans and not slaves, conquerors or traitors, as Sandino once said. His words have been turned into facts because the people [words indistinct] recalling the immortal example of his actions and his thoughts. The FSLN has cemented its political and military experiences for 17 years. It has paid a high price in lives and sacrifices, and it is playing a vital role in the national life, proclaiming this role with pride and optimism. The march toward victory will not be halted.

The Sandinist fighters are convinced that only by means of a lengthy process will the Somozist forces [words indistinct] be worn down to the extent [words indistinct] a popular victory that will lead to the establishment of a popular democracy based on the alliance of workers and peasants with other democratic sectors. There are many battles still ahead of us and there is no time for weakening and [word indistinct]. The hour has come to join our forces, to fight alongside all the social and political currents determined to overthrow the Somoza regime, which is the immediate and main enemy of the Nicaraguan people. The alternatives become clearer and clearer. The national situation has become polarized with the National Guard troops, supported by U.S. imperialism and Nicaraguan capitalists, on one side and, on the other, the people, the petty bourgeoisie, and the working masses and their organizations.

Since the reaffirmation of Sandinism as the first fighting force against Somoza, imperialism has strengthened its ties with the tyrant. The most brutal repression has been the immediate means used for the destruction of our popular support and our growing influence on other sectors of the people.

The most evident proof of our work is the National Guard's role in the present Nicaraguan situation. How it acted during the general strike in January and February [words indistinct] its political and military structure during more than 40 years of dynastic Somozist rule.

Undoubtedly, imperialism is not deceived; it is aware of the polarizing effect which results from Somoza's presence in the presidency, a brutal government noted for its corruption, crimes and brutality becomes, with the passage of time, a target to be overthrown by a larger number of sectors and by (?socialism).

But although imperialism understands the situation, it understands still more that the dictatorship controls the nation's economy. Somoza and his cronies own at least 80 percent of the national economy. The maintenance by the tyrant of the unity of the National Guard and its antipopular actions fully guarantee the maintenance of capitalism and the interests of transnational concerns in Nicaragua. This clearly explains why the Yankee government is playing all its cards in the [words indistinct]. Any short- or medium-range [word indistinct] is conditioned to a great extent to the permanent influence of Somoza, his military gang and political bosses and their firm entrenchment in all the basic government machinery.

A Somozist-type regime without Somoza could be one of the most feasible moves within the imperialist maneuvers, but bourgeois democracy is daily becoming a more remote possibility.

Pedro Joaquin Chamorro's murder last January left the bourgeois opposition without its main leader and showed that Somoza's reply was to demands for a political opening by political groups led by the murdered newsman.

The Sandinist fighters know that to the extent that we unite with all democratic and progressive forces and basically with the Nicaraguan Socialist Party depends the future of our struggle. [Words indistinct] the National Guard and the forces traditionally loyal to the dictatorship are closing ranks, fearing that the moment of truth, the hour of the people, has come.

The most recent [words indistinct] to conquer the rights denied to the people. The extent of the (?Nueva Vida) operation carried out by Somoza and his gringo advisers to crush the movement can be determined by the decision to use tanks and artillery fire against the straw huts of the Monimbo Indian population. Partial estimates place at several hundred dead and missing, and in the thousands, the number of wounded. These are the sad results of the operation.

However, a few days ago Terence Todman, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, cooly said that there is no definite evidence of human rights violations in Nicaragua and that, therefore, the U.S. Government will continue to aid the Somozist regime. More recent still is the operation being prepared under the title of Operation Veloz, a joint Honduran-Nicaraguan military operation against the FSLN guerrillas in our country's northern mountains.

There has been fighting going on in the Nicaraguan mountains for over 4 years [words indistinct]. In spite of all the punitive expeditions which have left a bloody balance of 3,000 dead and huge numbers of persons burned by napalm, they have not been able to destroy the guerrilla columns. The day will come when our fighters will [words indistinct] and continue to advance until they make true our slogan: We shall bury our enemy's heart in the mountains.

GRANMA ADMITS SETBACKS, DROP IN SUGAR PRODUCTION

PA091520Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0340 GMT 9 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Havana, 8 Mar (EFE)--Adverse weather conditions and slow cutting [bajos rendimientos] and transporting of sugarcane continue to delay the current harvest.

The newspaper GRANMA, official organ of the Communist Party of Cuba, reports that last Sunday's sugar milling production had been the lowest of the present season, reaching only 47 percent of the estimated production. Of the 148 sugar mills in the country, 127 had failed to meet milling estimates, and production, which had shown signs of recovery, witnessed a sudden decrease. In a large part of the territory, from Pinar del Rio to Sancti Spiritus--more than half of the island--heavy and frequent rainfall partially or totally paralyzed sugar mill activities. Another factor which caused a drop in production to some extent, the paper says, was the absence of sufficient manpower in sugarcane cutting, both manual and mechanized.

The current sugar harvest problems were first announced on 20 January by Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban State Council, on inaugurating the bulk sugar terminal in Puerto Carupano, more than 600 km east of here. Later, at a meeting with administrative, political and mass organization leaders, Castro urged them to redouble their efforts to find ways of overcoming existing problems.

The critical sugar situation and some of its causes were revealed in a lengthy editorial published 28 February by GRANMA. The newspaper called for fulfillment of the goals established for the 100 days remaining of the harvest period and said that "not all the failures can be blamed on the rain." In unusually critical terms, GRANMA admitted a drop in production the early and late part of the week. It also denounced "a procrastinatin ndency (to leave everything for the last minute) evidenced in some work groups."

ECONOMIC-INDUSTRIAL PACT WITH BELGIUM SIGNED

FL092300 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2213 GMT 9 Mar 78 FL

[Text] After 3 days of working sessions held in Havana, Cuba and Belgium have concluded the second meeting of the intergovernmental joint commission for economic and industrial cooperation between the two countries. The chairmen of the delegations to the talks, Raul Saladrit, director of the department of nonsocialist developed countries of Cuba's State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and Belgian special Ambassador Jean de Bosompierre signed the final document.

During the meeting, the two sides evaluated the status of economic relations, industrial projects under construction and study, matters dealing with financing and Cuban-Belgian trade relations.

Attending the signing ceremony were the two countries' diplomatic representatives and officials of the Council of Ministers, the vice president's office in charge of basic industry, foreign trade and the national bank. After signing the protocol on the second meeting of the Cuban-Belgian intergovernmental commission, the heads of the two delegations discussed the results achieved during the working sessions in brief speeches.

Cuban delegation chief Raul Saladrit stated that the document signed this afternoon confirms the growth of economic relations between Cuba and Belgium. Likewise, he pointed out, the talks had developed without difficulties and referred to the readiness of the two sides to achieve satisfactory results. For his part, Belgian delegation chief De Bosompierre reaffirmed the statements made by his Cuban counterpart and added that the results of the second meeting will contribute to the success of future negotiations.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES UNANNOUNCED FOR AFRICA

PA101233Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1052 GMT 10 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Havana, 9 Mar (AFP)--Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca left this evening without any publicity on a trip of several weeks to Africa. His departure was via Madrid and in secrecy. Even up to a few hours ago Foreign Ministry officials said they knew nothing of the trip. Such reserve is customary regarding the movements of Cuban Government officials and in this case it seems to lack any special significance.

Despite the total lack of official information, informed sources said Malmierca will visit Iraq, South Yemen, Tanzania, Madagascar and Ethiopia. This part of the foreign minister's tour seems closely related to the situtaion in the Horn of Africa, diplomatic observers feel. Mention was made of the current successvul Ethiopian military campaign against Somalia which is fully backed by Cuba.

It is understood that Malmierca will also go to Moscow and has a "technical stopover" planned for Rome which may last over 24 hours.

MONTANE MEETS WITH VENEZUELAN MIR LEADER

FL091308Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Mar 78 FL

[Text] PCC Central Committee member Jesus Montane Oropesa, head of the party's department of mass organizations, has received Moises Moriero, secretary general of the Venezuelan Movement of the Revolutionary Left--MIR--at the Central Committee office. At the meeting, Moriero was briefed on the work and important role played by the mass organizations in building the new society in Cuba.

RAMIRO VALDES CHAIRS SANTIAGO DE CUBA CONSTRUCTION MEETING

FL091336Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1237 GMT 9 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes, Politburo member and Council of State vice president, has chaired the Granma and Santiago de Cuba provinces construction sector meeting held in Santiago de Cuba. Completion dates for projects scheduled for 1978, especially priority projects for the country's economy, were established at the meeting.

During the meeting Commander of the Revolution Ramiro Valdes stressed the importance of supporting the initiative for production of quality spare parts to replace imports. As a contribution to this, he also recommended support for the rationalizer and innovator movement.

CULTURE MINISTER ATTENDS 11TH FESTIVAL MEETING

FL091758Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 9 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, Politburo member and culture minister, has visited the 11th [World Youth and Students] Festival permanent commission headquarters, where the cultural experts are holding their first meeting. The leader was received by Luis Felipe Vazquez, Cuban representative to the preparatory committee, foreign delegates to this organization and members of the Union of Young Communists National Committee. Hart spend a short time exchanging impressions with the experts attending the meeting and was interested in the cultural groups which will participate in the 11th festival.

MORE CUBAN LEADERS SIGN GDR EMBASSY CONDOLENCE BOOK

FL092021Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1907 GMT 9 Mar 78 FL

[Text] PCC Central Committee Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura and Central Committee members Secundino Guerra and Oscar Fernandez Mell this morning signed the book of condolences which has been opened at the GDR Embassy. Other personalities also expressed their condolences to GDR Ambassador Heinz Langer on the occasion of the death of Werner Lamberz, member of Germany's Socialist Unity Party Politburo, and Paul Markowski, member of the Central Committee.

Agapito Figuerda, second secretary of the Central Organizational of Cuban Workers, accompanied by members of that labor organization's Secretariat, also signed the book of condolences. Alberto Rodriguez Arufe and other members of the Union of Young Communists National Committee also visited the GDR Embassy to express their condolences.

FIDEL ATTENDS FAREWELL FOR TEACHERS GOING TO ANGOLA

FL101150Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC and president of the Council of State and Government, last night presided over the farewell ceremony for the Che Guevara internationalist teaching detachment held at the Central Organization of Cuban Workers--CTC--Lazaro Pena Theater. The group consists of youths who are going to the People's Republic of Angola on a teaching mission, answering a call made by the commander in chief to help complete the number of teachers needed in that fraternal African country.

Speaking at the farewell ceremony for the detachment members, Fidel stated that they should be an example of Cuban youth, people and the revolution. He said that the youthful members of the Che Guevara internationalist teaching detachment should put all their energies to creative work and make an effort to provide the highest quality work in their position as teachers. He also pointed out to the members of the detachment the need for them to be disciplined, which is an essential factor in the performance of the mission entrusted to them.

Present at the ceremony were Ramiro Valdes, Politburo member and Council of State vice president; Council of Ministers Vice President Belarmino Castilla, Education Minister Jose R. Fernandez and other PCC Central Committee members.

BRIEFS

SUGAR WORKERS APPEAL--In Santa Clara the Sugar Industry Workers Trade Union has appealed to its members to respond to Fidel's request to make an extraordinary effort during this phase of the harvest. At each work post, in accordance with the technical norms established for each operation, there must be rigorous vigilance and strictest control. As part of the 100-day drive of decisive effort in harvest and agricultural tasks, workers will also wage a battle for greater efficiency in the industry. The document notes that the trade union movement at each sugar mill will be a loyal representative of its class' interests in strengthening labor and technical discipline. The appeal concludes: We may say that the commander in chief can rest assured that the industry's men and machinery will not cease work until all sugar mills' production plans are fulfilled. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 78 FL]

JAMAICA

MINISTER BERTRAM SPEAKS ON STATUS OF PRESS

FL081716Y Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in English 5 Mar 78 pp 1, 3, 22 FL

[Text of address delivered by Minister of State Arnold Bertram on 3 March in prime minister's office to Caribbean Publishing and Broadcast Association [CPBA]]

[Excerpt] Government's policy towards the media is in keeping with the principles of democratic socialism which is the foundation of our general philosophy and programme. Against the background now, I would like to discuss our media policy from the points of view of ownership of the media; the organisation of the media; and the social responsibility and freedom of the media. All three are inseperable parts of one whole.

As far as ownership is concerned, I take the opportunity to reiterate that government is not against private ownership in the media and we have no intention of changing that view. In fact, it is a matter of clear record and an integral part of the policy of the mixed economy that the freedom of the Jamaican people to own media is safeguarded. Every Jamaican knows this. However, we do not believe that it can be in the interest of the people of Jamaica for non-Jamaicans to own media in this country. I wish to stress that ownership of media in this country is a right to Jamaicans.

But, Mr. Chairman, while some quarters claim for themselves the right of ownership and strenuously defend it against all real or imagined threats of encroachment, these same quarters often behave in terms that suggest that they would seek to deny this same right to those Jamaicans who cannot secure financial backing and influential regional/ international connections.

I will now illustrate an aspect of our policy on ownership by reference to the recent acquisition of Radio Jamaica Ltd. The first point to be noted is that the acquisition transfered ownership from foreign to Jamaican hands. Secondly, we are now engaged in a strategy of divestment which will allow for a broad-based ownership among workers and among groups who would not otherwise be seriously involved in the ownership of a major media, largely for financial reasons. By this policy, we bring ownership into the hands of those who do not have high financial backing, while preserving individual ownership elsewhere in the press.

What is enlightening is the response from a minority to these simple acts of broadening the ownership base and exercising national sovereignty. Which leads me to ask the following question: Are the people of Jamaica to expect more democracy, more freedom of the press, more social responsibility from a handful of private, foreign owners and their local representatives than from a broad-based representation of the national interest? Some would have us believe this. I myself can't quite understand this sort of thinking.

'Grave Implications'

Now, Mr. Chairman, I would like to examine the question of organisation of the media. I'd like to begin by referring to a speech made by the hon. prime minister in parliament in April last year, in which he said that government firmly believes that true press freedom involves at least a modicum of balance in the dissemination of news and the expression of opinions and that no real democracy can exist in a climate in which narrow, sectoral class and economic interests dominate large sections of the media.

I have referred to this speech because, where the balance does not exist, there will be grave implications both for the internal organisation of the media as well as the responsibility of the media to the society at large.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, this government is committed to the deepening of the democratic process in this country and for this reason we are implementing a programme of worker participation. For the media, this means that the professinal media workers--the editors, the reporters, the photographers, the film workers, the technicians, the printers, and so on--have a right to participate in the major decision-making process which affects fundamentally the output of the media and the conditions under which they work. Any organisation must benefit from the collective experience of those who work in it, so long as there are mechanisms through which this can be done.

This is the process which has begun and is on the way to being institutionalized in the government-owned media and sections of the private media. For example the board of Radio Jamaica has on it the managing director and two worker representatives elected by their peers. We are rapidly organising this system where the views of the workers can be counted. Similar measures are being implemented at the Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation, and even in other sections of the government-owned media in which the process is not as far advanced,there has definitely begun the practice where the workers, the professionals, have a say in media output and working conditions.

Suppor

An inseperable concommittant of this policy--the policy of industrial democracy, is the encouragement of organisations of media workers. Like other workers, media workers elect to represent them those in whom they have trust and those whom they hold in high respect. Once these representatives are democratically elected, it is the government's policy to encourage and respect this system of decision-making among the workers. Any act which consciously or unconsciously defeats this democratic process cannot be a good thing. Or to use the more popular parlance, Mr. Chairman, any act which consciously or unconsciously weakens the organisation of the workers, which smacks of "union-busting," could not be a good thing.

Mr. Chairman, we know what we stand for and it is a policy which has the overwhelming support not only of the majority of media professionals but also the majority of the Jamaican people who gave this government a mandate to press on with trying to create a truly democratic climate in this country. Certain elements in the media who have traditionally ignored this policy and have proceeded to launch attacks against it in the face of the democratic aspirations of the workers and the Jamaican people are at this time being faced with a historical force which is at work now; because it has reached a point where it is impossible to put a halt to the democratic process in this country.

The response of these elements, who are among the most vocal in defense of press freedom, is being seen by all the Jamaican people. This brings me, Mr. Chairman, to the overall context in which both the policy on ownership and the policy of industrial democracy fits, that is the social responsibility of the media.

Our prime minister has often enunciated the view that the government has a duty in the name of the principle of freedom of the press to see that outlets are provided for adequate expression of opinions and views that are consistent with the aspirations of the people. We believe that this view has the support of the Jamaican people themselves.

But, Mr. Chairman, this is not only a Jamaican view but one which is also rooted in the experience of many of the world's peoples and has found expression in canons and conventions of your profession. For example, this is what the April 1947 review of the Hutchins Commission on the state of the press in the United States of America had to say on the social responsibilities of the press:

"Is freedom of the press in danger? Yes. But the reason does not echo the familiar assumption of the publishers that freedom of the press is their proprietary right to act as irresponsibly as they please."

The commission continues:

"As the importance of communications has increased, its control has come into fewer hands. The few in control have failed to meet the needs of the people. Press practices at times have been so irresponsible that if continued, society is bound to take control for its own protection."

Right to Ownership

And nearer home in Jamaica, a commission of enquiry was set up last year under the very distinguished chairmanship of our chief justice, Mr. Kenneth Smith, to enquire into the dispute at the JAMAICA DAILY NEWS. This commission upheld the right of the investor to determine and monitor policy. At the same time, the commission supported the right of professional journalists to influence output in keeping with the social responsibilities of the media.

Mr. Chairman, the government of this country respects the constitutional right to own property and the right of those owners to dispose of the property in the way they see fit, to say who should work there and who should not. That is their right. But, Mr. Chairman, this right must never be confused with freedom of the press. Actions taken that derive from ownership of the property must not be confused with action taken to protect freedom of the press.

TALKS HELD ON TIES WITH CUBA

FL061740Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Mar 78 p 20 FL

[Text] Informal, wide-ranging discussions on how Cuba and Jamaica may further co-operate in the fields of education, sports and science, were held on Monday, February 20, between the vice-president of the Cuban Council of Ministers, Sr. Belarmino Castilla, several government ministers and University of the West Indies officials.

Sr. Castilla, who made a two-day stop in Kingston, enroute to Guyana, was guest of honour at a working luncheon hosted by Foreign Affairs Minister the Hon. P.J. Patterson on Monday, February 20.

Among those who attended were the minister of education, the Hon. Eric Bell; youth and sports minister, the Hon. Hugh Small; and national security minister, Senator the Hon. Dudley Thompson who is president of the joint Cuba-Jamaica commission.

During the luncheon, the Cuban visitor and his hosts discussed various aspects of bilateral co-operation between the two countries particularly in the areas of sports and education; Sr. Castilla reviewed the programme under which Cuba will provide six new gift schools for Jamaica.

Sr. Castilla visited the University of the West Indies, Mona, where he held informal discussions with Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Leslie Robinson about possible areas of co-operation between the UWI and Cuban universities.

At the end of the talks, the Cuban minister invited the UNI to send a group of officials to Cuba to look at the educational system there.

Sr. Castilla, who supervises the Cuban ministries of education, sports and science, also called on the director of the Scientific Research Council, Dr. Arnoldo Ventura, and had discussions with him on possible areas of co-operation in the field of science.

HOUSE QUESTIONS PATTERSON ON CUBAN MILK SALE, SCHOOLS

FL091520Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 6 Mar 78 p 10 FL

[Excerpt] The minister of foreign trade, the Hon P.J. Patterson, has denied suggestions that the condensed milk "La Crema" sold to Jamaica by Cuba was an original gift to the Cuban Government by the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP]. It should be noted, he said, that in an official release issued from Rome on March 11, 1977, the World Food Programme, after investigation, denied the accusation that condensed milk imported by Jamaica from Cuba was prepared from skimmed milk received from the organization as food aid. The minister was answering questions in the House of Representatives on Tuesday afternoon asked by Dr Havis Gilmour (JLP West Rural St Andrew) as to whether the milk purchased during 1975/76 was an original gift to the Cuban Government by the UNDP.

Mr Patterson said that Jamaica purchased the milk from Cuba for US$1.760 million or J$1.606 million. Asked if it was a fact that the purpose of the milk from Cuba and the "gift" of the school to the Jamaicans was in fact one package, by which the Jamaican Government paid approximately $2 million for the cost of the school and the government supplied milk, the minister said that this was not true. He said that there was no connection between the two transactions. Each, he said, was a separate offer, which demonstrated the preparedness of the Cuban Government to provide assistance in separate areas of need to Jamaica.

Answering supplementary questions as to whether the milk was distributed free or was sold, the minister said that the milk which was purchased was sold at 17¢ per ten, and it was sold through the AMC [Agricultural Marketing Corporation]. Asked if any other transaction with that brand of milk had taken place on or about the same time, the minister said no other transaction during that period had taken place. He said that in 1977 Jamaica received milk from Cuba to be donated free of cost to the poor of the country, particularly mothers with children.

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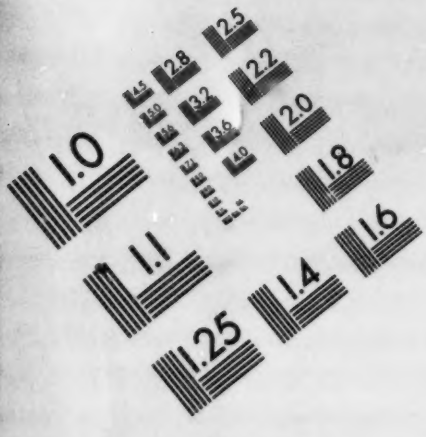

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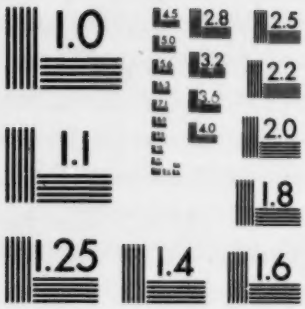

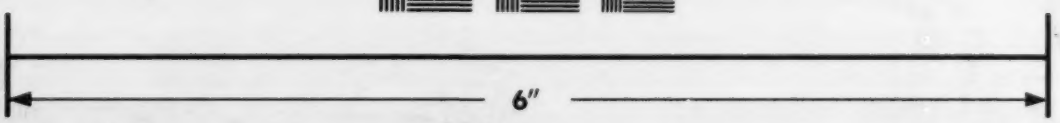

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